

IONS—
Jan 13/39
**CHEER FOR
ALL OWNERS
OF NABESNA**

**Dividends and Good News from
Upper Tanana
Valley Mine**

Stockholders of the Nabesna Mining Company, operating in the Nabesna country, near Chitina, Alaska, have added to their Christmas cheer within the last few days remittances in form of dividends from the mine. Among them are a number of Fairbanks residents.

Along with the dividend checks came the following interesting announcement over the name of Carl F. Whitham, president and general manager of the company:

Progress of Mine

"Nabesna Mine now has larger ore reserves showing, and is operating and producing more efficiently and at less cost than at any time in its past history.

"During the summer of 1931 a small mill was installed and operated for the remaining 60 days of the summer months, making a production of concentrate valued at \$60,759.00. There being no road to the mine at that time, these concentrates were shipped by airplane. Since milling began, eight years ago, mill tonnage capacity has been more than doubled, equipment installed that has greatly improved recovery, and heating and water supply provided so that successful year-around operation of the mill plant has been attained. Concentrates and gold bullion having a total gross value of \$1,568,723.00 have been produced to

(Continued from Page 1)

date of October 1, 1938.

"A road branching from the Richardson Highway will, when, as originally planned, constructed on through to Chisana and beyond and beyond to the White River, making transportation available for the entire richly mineralized North Wrangell Mountain region. This road was—all credit to the efficient, capable work of the Alaska Road Commission and its engineers—completed to Nabesna several years ago. Using the road for truck freighting supplies in and concentrates out from Nabesna Mine has lowered the per cent freight costs several hundred per cent from that of the early days of airplane and winter sledding transportation.

On Upper Tanana

"The Nabesna Mine is near the headwaters of Nabesna River, which stream is the principal source of the Tanana River. The mine is located on the west side of the valley on White Mountain. A good highway leads from the seaport of Valdez for a distance of 250 miles across the coast range up the Copper River valley and over a low divide to Nabesna valley and White Mountain. Long before the coming of white men to the country Indians knew this as El-Se-Ba, or The White Mountain, taking its name from the high white limestone cliffs towering above and overlooking Nabesna valley.

"It has now been nearly 40 years since the time three 'ninety-eighters,' finding their way across the practically unexplored mountain wilderness from the seacoast to the new-found gold diggings of the Yukon valley, eased packs from their shoulders at the base of El-Se-Ba to rest, boil a pot of tea and have a midday bite of food. Their journey was continued but not before one of these three had taken a pan of the gravel and slide rock from a steep gulch coming down the mountain side and found colors of gold. Thus was White Mountain first known to contain gold, but many years elapsed before any further attention was given the mountain.

Formation

"White Mountain, largely composed of limestone rock, is cut diagonally across in a general north-south direction by a diorite intru-

a historic tribute to Juneau's first home.

**Nabesna Mine
Shipping Ore
After Long Idle**

**Concentrates On Way to
Smelter; Property Rehabilitated and Will Operate Year Around**

FAIRBANKS—Nearly 3 months' hard work were required to get the Nabesna mill rehabilitated and in operation after the shut-down of war years, but the first shipment of concentrates was trucked out 235 miles to Valdez September 15 and weekly shipments will go out until the road is closed, Carl Whitham, general manager, said while in Fairbanks with Joe Berry, his diesel engineer who came in for medical attention.

The initial shipment, the first in six years, consisted of over four tons valued at \$1,000 a ton, and the weekly shipments will be of approximately the same amounts. The ore will await passage on an Alaska Steamship Company boat for the Tacoma smelter.

Around 14 or 16 men have been employed at the Nabesna mine since June 1. The mill finally got into operation the latter part of August. A vast amount of rehabilitation work was necessary. Everything had to be overhauled and many pieces of equipment replaced. Foundations of buildings had settled, slides obstructed the roads.

Year-Round Work

"It was a lot of hard work," said Whitham, "but now we are running smoothly and will operate the year round. Ore bodies are showing up nicely with bigger quantities of ore than we really expected. The grade is fairly good.

"While gold miners are having trouble and grief," he said, "they should go through with the rehabilitation work and get their mines going. It has to be done sometime, and the quicker they get at it the better. It is a pleasure when you once get a mine rehabilitated and in operation that makes your work seem well worth while."

Whitham and Berry drove in over the highway via Tok Cut-off and the Alaska Highway and returned by the same route. Whitham said the road out from the mine was the best this year he had ever seen it. While the new bridge over the Chistochina will soon be completed and looks much better than the old which has had a habit of going out every year, he said his men preferred the old bridge because of its durability and its sturdy construction.

approx. Oct. 2, 1946

**Nabesna Mine
Shipping Ore
\$4,000 Worth Of Ore
Trucked Into Valdez**

FAIRBANKS—Reopening of the war-closed Nabesna gold mine and new gold and copper discoveries in the Copper river area are evidence of stepped-up mining activity in this region, according to Robert S. Sanford, regional director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

The first shipment of Nabesna ores in six years—more than four tons, worth an estimated \$1000 per ton—was trucked 235 miles to Valdez September 15. Weekly shipments are planned until the road is closed, General Manager Carl Whitham said. The ore will be shipped to the Tacoma smelter.

Mr. Whitham said approximately 16 men worked from June 1 to get the mine started late in August.

Mr. Sanford reported the following metallic discoveries:

George Nagnangast and K. J. Rickey found lode gold near Chitina, southwest of Liberty Falls. The prospectors, who will continue their investigations in the spring, said the quartz veins were half a mile long and 300 or 400 feet wide.

Steve Worbel and George Smith discovered two copper outcrops on the south slope of Sheep mountain up Dry creek.

Mr. Sanford also reported the following operations:

The Gold Cord Development Co. is running its Willow creek district mill with one daily shift and is pushing underground development in preparation for winter operations. A. L. Renshaw is in charge.

Twenty-six men are working on underground development and 14 men on mill and camp at the Inden-

**Whitham Makes
Nabesna Mine Report
To Stockhold.**

Carl F. Whitham, president and general manager of the Nabesna Mining Corporation, has submitted to stockholders a report on operations from June 1 to October 15. Because of insufficient labor, the mill was closed down October 1, and diamond drilling and mine work ended October 15. A watchman will take care of the property during the winter.

Since nearly three months were required to make the needed repairs and reconditioning of the mill, mine, water system and camp buildings after being closed down for nearly five years, the mill was operated only 255 hours. In that time, according to the report, it treated 540 tons of Golden Eagle ore having a value of \$15.42 per ton. About 9.19 tons of concentrates were produced, containing a total of 172.478 ounces of gold and 126.475 ounces of silver with a gross value of

(Continued on Page 6)

Continued from Page 5
\$6151.08. These concentrates were shipped to the Tacoma smelter.

A new air compressor delivering 300 feet of actual air per minute was installed at the Golden Eagle Mine, replacing the portable compressor that burnt up in 1941.

A 43-foot tunnel was driven to open up for mining the surface ore body that is situated 650 feet westerly and 334 feet vertically higher than the portal of the main tunnel. Forty feet of this was driven through ore that assayed over \$20 per ton in gold value.

There is over 2000 tons of proven ore remaining to be mined at the surface cropping. Extension of the 43-foot upper tunnel into White Mountain will from all indications develop a large tonnage of ore, according to the report. Owing to the scarcity of miners, very little work was done on the main Golden Eagle tunnel. Thirty-one feet of new tunnel were driven, making the total distance from the portal 531 feet.

New equipment having a combined total cost of approximately \$17,830 was bought and placed in service, most of it to replace similar equipment sold to the Army and War Defense contractors in Alaska during the war. Supplies and repair parts cost approximately \$11,069, diesel engine fuel oil, gas and oil \$3,789, wages \$16,773, transportation costs \$2,739, taxes, license, insurance, etc., approximately \$4,000.

Inventory supplies on hand October 15 showed a value of approximately \$24,792.

"Our original plan to operate Nabesna Mine continuously the year around had to be abandoned because of lack of sufficient mine labor to carry on the work efficiently and the impossibility of getting some of the essential supplies needed," said the report. "It would not be advisable next spring to try to operate Nabesna Mine and mill if the labor supply is still scarce and essential supplies not obtainable.

"A large amount of work was accomplished this summer, in spite of the small crew available. Much credit is due those in charge of the work for the progress made in rehabilitating Nabesna Mine and mill and putting them in their present good operating condition."